

Appln No. 10/000,141

Amdt date November 7, 2003

Reply to Office action of October 7, 2003

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This amendment is in response to the Office action mailed on October 7, 2003. Claims 9, 11-14, and 17-41 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-8, 10, and 15 have been amended. Claims 1-8, 10, 15-16 and 42 are pending in this case.

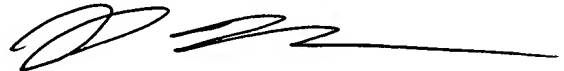
On page 2 of the Office action, the action indicates that claim 1 is generic to a plurality of disclosed patentably distinct species comprising thermally tuned laser systems. The action further requires an election of a disclosed species. In a telephone interview with the Examiner on October 28, 2003, the election/restriction requirement was discussed to obtain clarification of the requirement. Applicant's Representative thanks the Examiner for his time and courtesy on this matter.

In response to the election/restriction requirement, Applicant elects a thermally tuned laser array as, for example, the embodiments relating to the laser array shown in FIGs. 2 and 3. As such, claims 9, 11-14, and 17-41 are canceled without prejudice and claims 1-8, 10, 15-16 and 42 are elected. Claims 1-8, 10, and 15 have been amended to further reflect the election and not narrowed.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1-8, 10, 15-16 and 42. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorney might expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to call at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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